

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 07810 311734 Z

44

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 MBFR-02 GAC-01 ACDA-10 EUR-10

NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

L-03 IO-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 PRS-01 NEA-06 AEC-05

RSR-01 /083 W

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P R 311650 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5436

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BONN 7810

LIMDIS/NOFORN

PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

EO XGDS 1

TAGS: PARM GW UK

SUBJ/ MBFR: FRG POSITION ON STATIONED/ INDIGENOUS FORCE

REDUCTIONS ISSUE.

REF: A. BONN 7517; B. STATE 98511; C. BONN 7214

BEGIN SUMMARY. GERMAN FEDERAL SECURITY CONCIL (FSC) HAD DECIDED TO SUPPORT APPROACH IN US MBFR OPTION I, WITH PARTICULAR ELEMENTS OF OPTION III TO BE UTILIZED AT AN APPROPRIATE STAGE AT LEAST FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES. BUT FSC FAILED TO RESOLVE IN A CELAR FASHION AT WHAT POINT NEGOTIATIONS ON INDIGENOUR AS WELL AS STATIONED FORCE REDUCTIONS SHOULD COMMENCE. FRG NATO AMB SOON WILL EXPRESS ABOVE GERMAN PREFERENCE BUT WILL CONTINUE FOR THE TIME

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SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 07810 311734 Z

BEING TO FUDGE THE STATIONED/ INDIGENOUS ISSUE. THERE IS CONTINUED CONCERN IN BONN THAT ASSYMETRICAL US MBFR OPTIONS MAY PROVE NON-NEGOTIABLE, THUS LEAVING ALLIES IN DIFFICULT SITUATION ONCE NEGOTIATIONS COMMENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER ROTH HAS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT, FOLLOWING INCONCLUSIVE BUT HEATED MAY 24 FSC DISCUSSION OF MBFR STATIONED / INDIGENOUS FORCE REDUCTION ISSUE (REF A), FSC CONSIDERED TOPIC AGAIN ON EVENING OF MAY 28. THIS RENEWED HIGH- LEVEL GERMAN EFFORT TO RESOLVE ISSUE WAS MADE IN VIEW OF US WISH THAT ALLIES DEFINE CONCRETE POSITIONS IN GUIDELINES PAPER BEFORE COPENHAGEN MINISTERIAL AND GIVEN STRONG BRITISH EMPHASIS IN NAC ON STATIONED FORCE CUTS. PARTICIPANTS IN MAY 28 MEETING WERE CHANCELLOR BRANDT, FONMIN SCHEEL, DEFMIN LEBER, SPECIAL MINISTER BAHR AND FINANCE MINISTER HELMUT SCHMIDT. THE PRESENCE OF SCHMIDT, WHO ORIGINALLY SOLD LEBER ON THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF EARLY MBFR CUTS IN INDIGENOUS FORCES (REF C), OBVIOUSLY COMPLICATED SCHEEL' S EFFORT TO LIMIT INITIAL MBFR REDUCTIONS TO STATIONED FORCES.

2. ACCORDING TO ROTH, MAY 28 MEETING CONFIRMED LAST WEEK' S FSC " PRE- DECISION- THAT FRG PREFERRED US OPTION I BUT THAT ELEMENTS OF OPTION III ALSO COULD BE UTILIZED, EXPECIALLY TO WIN SOVIET ASSENT TO ASSYMETRICAL TRYP AGREEMENT.

3. BUT FSC FUDGED THE ISSUE OF WHETHER STATIONED FORCE REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE BOTH NEGOTIATED AND IMPLEMENTED BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS ON INDIGENOUS FORCE REDUCTIONS BEGIN -- THE FONOFF VIEW --, OR WHETHER, AS THE DEFMIN PREFERS, THERE SHOULD BE SIMUTANEOUR NEGOTIATIONS ON BOTH STATIONED AND INDIGENOUS FORCES BUT SEPARATE. SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION OF INDIGENOUS FORCE REDUCTIONS. THE OBSCURE FORMULATION IN THE MAY 28 DECISION MEMO, AS READ TO EMBOFF BY ROTH, READS: QUOTE EVEN IF THIS COMPLEX (STATIONED AND INDIGENOUS FORCE REDUCTIONS AND CONTRAINTS) ARE AGREED TO IN ONE NEGOTIATING PACKAGE, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EASH STAGE OF THE PACKAGE SHOULD BE VERIFIED BEFORE THE NEXT STAGE IS IMPLEMENTED, IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE THAT THE WHOLE PROCESS OF REDUCTIONS AND CONTRAINTS REMAIN CONTROLLABLE . END QUOTE

4. BASED ON THE ABOVE PASSAGE, ROTH SAID HE WILL INSTRUCT AMB KRAPF TO TAKE POSITION IN NEXT NAC MEETING SUPPORTING APPRAOCH IN US MBFR OPTION I, WITH ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITY OF USING CERTAIN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 07810 311734 Z

ELEMENTS OF OPTION III. ROTH SAID HE WILL, TO THE EXTENT THAT DEFENSE MINISTRY CLEARANCES PERMIT, SEEK IN HIS INTRUCTION TO INTERPRET THE ABOVE FORMULATION TO LAY EMPHASIS ON INITIAL NETO

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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